

Soviet Schedule Kept in Near East

EXTENSION OF REMARKS

OF

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Mr. MULTER. Mr. Speaker, the following article from the Washington Post of July 17, 1958, is most interesting. It reveals in retrospect what I said more than 2 years ago was in prospect.

I told it to all who would listen, including all of the people I could get to in the White House, in the State Department, as well as to our Joint Chiefs of Staff.

It should have been in their files then. There can be no excuse for it not having been verified by them long before the happening of any of the events recounted.

The article by Drew Pearson, based on his own travels through the area, follows:

SOVIET SCHEDULE KEPT IN NEAR EAST

(By Drew Pearson)

The Kremlin timetable for the Near East is running right on schedule. Last October, after talks with Arab leaders, this writer reported Nasser's plan to unite Syria and Egypt, and Moscow's plan to work with Nasser in gradually taking over all the Arab States through subversion and revolution.

The Kremlin timetable, as then reported, was 3 months to take over the desert kingdom of Jordan; 6 months to take Saudi Arabia; 9 months to take Lebanon; and 12 months to take Iraq.

The timetable is kept in one respect, early in another. Jordan did not fall in 3 months. Tough little King Hussein, backed by American arms and the British-trained Bedouins of the Arab Legion, resisted all attempts to undermine his regime.

Instead, the timetable was speeded up for Iraq. This country, supposed stronghold of the West, was scheduled to become Nasserized in 12 months. Instead it fell in 9 months.

It was to block the Kremlin timetable that the Eisenhower doctrine was proclaimed. Here is how both timetable and the doctrine are working:

Saudi Arabia: King Saud's glamor visit to the United States seems to have been for naught. The old King is sick, a virtual prisoner in his own palace surrounded by wives, children, and medical prescriptions. His brother, Prince Faisal, friend of Nasser, has been running the country.

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Lebanon: Handsome, West President Chamoun, a Catholic, estranged by Moslems, is bitter against the United States. For weeks he has been pressing Secretary Dulles informally for aid under the Eisenhower doctrine; and for an even longer period of weeks

has been working through the United States Ambassador to head off any formal request for aid. Only this week did the desperate Chamoun lay it on the line. Up until then, Dulles had pointed out that the United Nations found no evidence of foreign intervention.

However, U. N. Secretary Dag Hammarskjöld has now admitted privately to American diplomats that he deliberately whitewashed Syrian-Egyptian intervention in Lebanon in order not to embarrass Nasser. When Hammarskjöld went to Cairo, Nasser promised to cooperate with the U. N., if the U. N. did not embarrass him. On the other hand, if the United States and England intervened, Nasser warned, he would be forced to resist. So Hammarskjöld pulled a "Munich" and declared there was little evidence of Egyptian-Syrian intervention in Lebanon.

President Chamoun, who will step down after the July elections, is expected to throw his weight to the Lebanese chief of staff, Gen. Fuad Shehab, his successor. However, he has warned that Shehab is deceitful, will probably play ball with Nasser. General Shehab has been sunning himself on the beaches outside Beirut instead of fighting to defend his country.

Iraq: Instead of cooperating with Dag Hammarskjöld as promised, Nasser's agents in Baghdad dealt the West one of the most deadly blows so far received in the Near East. The United States had not the slightest inkling that revolt was coming.

We were so confident of the Iraqi Army that we were planning to use them, along with Turkish troops, to intervene in Lebanon. American transport planes had been flown to southern Turkey near the Iraqi border from Wiesbaden to be ready to ferry Iraqi troops to Lebanon.

Israel: When I reported the Kremlin timetable to Premier Ben-Gurion last fall, he kept repeating, "This is a problem for President Eisenhower." What he meant was that the plan to solidify the Arab States in a Nasserized anti-West confederation was too big for Israel. He was right.